

THE LOGGER'S

BARK

1916

RADIO CLUB of TACOMA

2018

OCTOBER, 2018 VOLUME 15, ISSUE 010 @Radio Club of Tacoma

Thanks for all who came to Worth's birthday / Club Elections / ARRL Elections

I just wanted to reach out and thank all the many folks who were able to attend the 100th birthday celebration on Sunday, September 30th at the clubhouse for Worth Gurley, W7WG. I can honestly say I don't think I've ever seen, at least in recent years, so many people packed into the first floor and kitchen! A really nice turnout.

And Worth seemed to really have a ball being there. Always beaming his smile and sharing stories and of course his funny quips... "and here I thought when I turned fifty that I was old. Now I must really be old" gave the crowd quite a laugh.

Bark Editor P.J., N7PH should have a few photos posted in this month's edition of the Bark. But just in case it gets missed, here's a short video taken by Anne, N7ANN, of the celebration: [\[LINK\]](#). A big thanks also to the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) for kindly sending along three nice certificates for Worth: one honoring his 50th year as a licensed Radio Amateur, one for his 65th, and one for his 80th! Of course, they are only issued in 5-year increments so Worth is going to have to wait two more years to receive his 85th!! He got quite a laugh out of that. Thanks to QCWA President Ken Oelke, VE6AFO, for taking the time and effort to print them up and get the certificates to me in time to get some nice frames for Worth's celebration.

Finally, thanks to all the folks who took the time to cook up some yummy food for the day, and to Paul, W7PFU, for coming to the club kitchen the second day in a row (following "last Saturday" chili dogs) to cook up a giant batch of spaghetti with homemade marinara sauce. It was a great afternoon; and to Worth, a very Happy Birthday and for many more to come.

In other news, make sure to keep an eye on your mail for the soon-to-be-mailed Radio Club of Tacoma ballots. There are four positions to be voted this election cycle: President, Treasurer, and two Board positions – all of whom are running as unopposed incumbents. But despite that, please make sure to complete and return your ballots in time to be counted at the

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



DAVE W7UUU

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Thanks to everyone who helped make this a great newsletter by contributing pictures and articles. It would not happen without your support.

Thanks,

P. J. H. N7PH editor

November General Election. It's just good club policy to support the process fully, even if all four positions are unopposed. Perhaps next year's cycle others will step up to try their hand at one of these important office positions.

Not only is it the Radio Club of Tacoma's election cycle, but it's also a very important ARRL election for those of us in the Pacific Northwest. As most know by now, the two top positions in the ARRL Northwestern Division (Director and Vice-Director) are both open, with no incumbents running again. Director is currently occupied by Jim Pace, K7CEX, who is stepping down at the end of this term. Vice Director is also open, with the current Vice Director running for the Director position. At the last two General Meetings, we had very engaging presentations by two of the Director candidates, Mike Ritz, W7VO, and Bonnie Altus, AB7ZQ (currently Vice Director). The third Director candidate, Horace Hamby, N7DRW, did not reach out to RCT to present his platform in person. I'm sure his platform statement is available online, or you can check last month's bark for both Horace and Mike's platform statements as provided to the Bark Editor. Bonnie had not yet committed to run so her statement does not appear in that newsletter.

Most ARRL members should have by now received their green ballots, which must be returned to the ARRL in their enclosed envelope for counting on Friday, November 16, 2018. This is an important election for anyone living in this region, so hopefully all our fellow ARRL / RCT members will get their ballots turned in in time.

Lastly, please know that our Radio Club of Tacoma ARRL Liaison Committee Chair, Joe Lester, K7ZG, has agreed to begin giving us a 5 to 10-minute report on current activities of the ARRL at every General Meeting as part of our Committee reports segment. I know I will be looking forward to hearing these updates, especially during this crucial ARRL election cycle.

That's if for now – see you all soon at the next meeting!

Dave
W7UUU

ANNUAL AWARDS and HOLIDAY BANQUET 2018

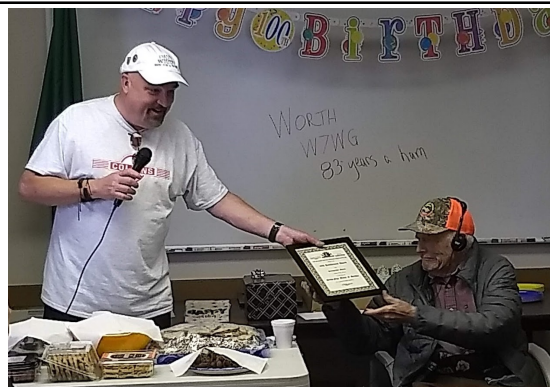
It's soon that time of year everyone! Be sure to mark your calendars for Sunday, December 2nd for our Annual W7DK Awards and Holiday Banquet. Location is Eagles Aerie #2933, 7037 South Pine Street in Tacoma (corner 70th & Pine). Note this is *not* the Eagles club we meet at monthly! Hours are from 1:00 PM until about 3:00. The Radio Club will furnish a large main course and sodas, and the rest of the food will be Potluck. At the November General Meeting we will have a sign-up sheet for various food categories, and this form will also be on the cork boards in the clubhouse.

GROUP BUY COMING SOON

The resounding success of the first MFJ group purchase this spring/summer has many members eagerly awaiting a second chance to get in on the big discounts achieved; up to 30% on some items. Adam has started the process of organizing another group buy and will be posting signup sheets and will have catalogs available very soon. LOOK FOR IFORMATION here in the BARK and on the club's bulletin board.



CELEBRATING Worth Gurley's 100th Birthday at the clubhouse



The Radio Club of Tacoma members and many friends of Worth Gurley W7WG gathered in the clubhouse to celebrate his 100th birthday and his 83 plus years as an Amateur Radio Operator. The pictures do not show the maximum capacity crowd attending the event.

Worth has been an inspiration to many and seems to always share his knowledge and skills with club members. His broad smile and hearty laugh brighten the day when he attends the Saturday Open Houses.

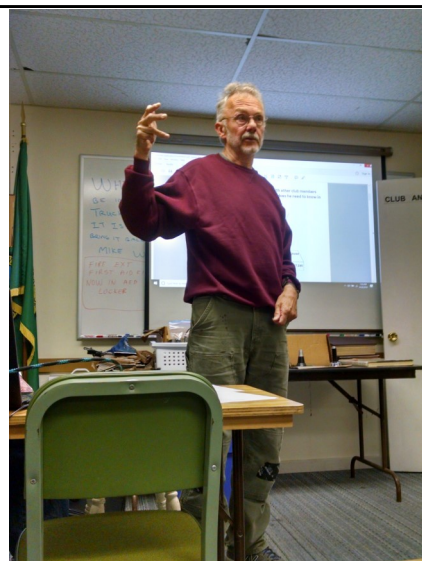
HAPPY BIRTHDAY Worth





HANDHELD Transceivers An Overview

On Wednesday evening, September 26, Jim K7SSS and Rich WR7W presented a program to a packed house outlining the steps necessary and the resources available to program your handheld transceiver and the effectiveness of various typical handheld antennas. Rich was ably assisted in the antenna research by Randy WB4SPB.



Jim thoroughly explained how to find the programming information needed to input station frequencies and support information such as offsets and tone signals, the meaning and use of different aspects of the handheld and repeater use. This was followed by Rich presenting his and Randy's findings on handheld antenna power gain and effectiveness.

Al in all it was an interesting evening for the beginner and intermediate handheld transceiver user alike.

RCT ELECTIONS

You should have received your ballots by now so it's time to make your selections and get the ballots sent in. The ballots are due before the start of the November meeting on November 3, 2018. That's coming up very quickly. The ballots can sent in by mail and also be turned in prior to the beginning of the Nov. meeting.

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT IN EVERY ELECTION

RADIO CLUB of TACOMA

Annual Awards Banquet and Holiday Party

Sunday, December 2, 2018

Full details will be in next month's newsletter
and on the club bulletin board

A WORD FROM THE ARRL . . .

By Joe Lester, K7ZG

It's election season and our club has been fortunate to hear from Bonnie Altus and Mike Ritz who are on the ballot for director in the ARRL North-western Division. ARRL members have received their green ballots with information on each of the three candidates seeking election as director and vice-director. Be sure to vote! Also interesting races in four other divisions. We will have ARRL on the agenda at future club meetings where you can ask questions or present your own comments.



Our club's affiliation with the ARRL extends back to 1920. In order to retain our status as an ARRL Special Service Club, we need at least 51% ARRL membership. If you'd like to join the ARRL, that would be great. You can do so online on the website arrl.org.

Morse Code Trainer – MCT I, MCT II, MCT III

John Fisher K5JHF, Milt Cram W8NUE, Ben Bibb N05K, and Kees Talen K5BCQ

By PJH, N7PH

The gentlemen above have a number of useful kits they have developed over the years. Some are complete assemblies while others are sub-assemblies useful in other projects. All are very reasonably priced and top quality. I have built a number of them. Most are of intermediate skill level and a few are quite challenging. These Morse Code Trainer kits are not for the faint of heart. They do produce a very nice keyer/oscillator/trainer with some unique features.

First of all, the kit uses a small number of SMT parts in 0805 size; not unreasonably small but requiring experience and/or practice to solder. The kit is supplied with 2 sets of PCB mounted switches and there is a third switch option, panel mount. The switches used in your build will depend on what case or box you intend to mount the unit in. As built per instructions you will use the long button switches. The instructions are based on building the MCT II kit so if building the MCT I or MCT III kit you will need to use the schematic extensively and 'interpret' from the MCT II instructions. The instructions assume you are a moderately experienced builder and spend a lot of time discussing the mechanical aspects of putting the unit in a case or box. It helps greatly if you have access to a drill press as the switch holes and PCB mounting holes are very tightly positioned. \$35/\$40 for basic MCT III kit plus about \$15 in other parts.

Right: Morse Code Trainer MCT III that I built in September. It works quite well and I consider it a good value. Fun Project kit.





**You Sound Pretty
Scratchy Into the
Repeater Old Man**

**Come Back
Again, Again, Again**

Negative Copy !!

Handy Talkie Antenna Testing

Reported by Rich KR7W

The info in this article was presented *in part* at the 4th Wednesday Club meeting on Sept 24th. The purpose of this article is to simplify the facts in an easier to understand way and get the info out to more amateur radio operators. The names, dates, and places in this story have been changed to protect the innocent.

Early in September Randy WB4SPB and I set out to measure the effectiveness of Handy Talkie Antennas. The goal was to determine which antenna worked the best and worst and the overall affect for the user.

3 categories of antennas were tested: The Stock Antenna— provided with the radio; After market Antennas that claimed better performance; and Home Brew antennas— including the Tiger Tail - that are easily at-

tached to the hand held radio.

We began our testing by reaffirming the theory that: **ANTENNAS ARE RECIPROCATIVE...** in this case it means that Antennas Transmit as well as they Receive.

Knowing that we could calculate the antenna's transmitting effectiveness by receiving a constant level off the air signal source... we went to Tacoma's Kandle Park— elevation of 400 ft. with a direct line of sight signal path to Capitol Peak just south of Olympia. The goal was to receive the NOAA Weather service transmitter on 162.475 MHz, 32 miles away, as the signal source. Using NEC Antenna Modeling software, Randy WB4SPB determined that using a test signal 15 MHz away from the 2 meter Ham band had no effect on the antennas receiving characteristics.



The test equipment consisted of a Laptop PC controlled SDR Play RSP-1A receiver connected to each antenna in turn. Handy Talkie whip antennas were connected to a Fake Handy Talkie- a plywood and sheet metal assembly that electrically emulated a regular handy talkie body being held by the user.



L image: Randy WB4SPB uses Fake HT assembly to test 16 inch whip with Tiger Tail option for receive level on SDR Radio shown in the above image.

The spreadsheet shows each antennas loss or gain, expressed in dB (decibels) **as compared to the de- facto dipole reference antenna set at 0 dB.** **ERP** (Effective Radiated Power) for each antenna can then be calculated. **ERP** is Effective Radiated Power) for each antenna can then be calculated. **ERP** is used by FCC agents and Ham Repeater Coordinators to prevent a licensed transmitter from interfering with nearby receivers on the same frequency.

Antenna Under Test	Antenna GAIN or LOSS in dB	Effective Radiated Power
DeFacto Dipole	0 dB	5 W
Stock Baeofeng Rubber Ducky	-19 dB Less than Dipole	65 mW
Baeofeng w/ Tiger Tail	-17 dB	100 mW
Nyoga 6" Whip	-20 dB	40 mW
16" Nyoga Whip	-8 dB	.8 W
16" Nyoga Whip w/ Tiger Tail	-5 dB	1.5 W
Home Brew Dipole	0 dB	5 W
HB Ground Plane (Romex)	+1 dB	6.5 W
Tape Measure Yagi	-2 dB	3 W

Surprising Results: 5 watts output from my Baeofeng HT to the stock whip antenna emits a small signal of **65 mW** into the Air Waves. No wonder I get “**You sound scratchy**” reports from my QTH a few miles away from the Club Repeater. Wow! The Nyoga 6 inch whip produces slightly less ERP at 40 mW

The homebrew **Tiger Tail** option can increased the transmit signal level of the whip antennas. More improvement is seen on the 16 inch whip vs the 6 inch Baeofeng whip.

The **Tape Measure Yagi**, used for Bunny Hunting, did not show gain as I'd expect from a Yagi. It has 2 db of loss compared to the de facto dipole. Not shown in the chart

is the TMY's extreme directivity– useful for finding bunnies.

The HBD (Home Brew Dipole) - Has the same gain as the de facto dipole. I built my HBD to ensure successful 2 meter contacts on 146.52 when on mountain tops for Summits on the Air. 5 watts out from my HT gets me 5 watts into the airwaves. Record distance is 102 Miles from Mt Rainier National Park to Megler, WA– near Astoria, OR. Click [HERE](#) for a good DIY Link.

Slim Jim Ladder Line J-Pole This ‘roll up’ antenna is popular for portable 2 meter operations. We did not have one to test- but in theory it should perform just like the de facto Dipole or HBD. Click [HERE](#) for Info.

The surprise antenna for me is the “**Romex Ground Plane**”. (Photo below)



This DIY antenna is a popular project for new hams in many publications. Our test results show it being 1 dB better than the de facto dipole. 5 watts from your HT theoretically gets you 6.5 watts into the ether.

ERP— one last thing: The **chart** below shows the **Effective Radiated Power** of the W7DK 147.280 repeater. Now I know why the hams with their Baofeng (or other brands) with stock whip antenna... think they can communicate via the W7DK repeater- They can receive the repeater Loud n Clear due to the high transmit ERP signal level. But when the HT user transmits- his/her miniscule signal level either doesn't open the repeater receivers squelch or sounds scratchy.

Antenna Under Test	Watts Output	100 ft Coax Loss	Antenna GAIN or LOSS in dB	Effective Radiated Power
W7DK 147.280 Repeater	50 W	-.5 dB	+8 dB	285 W



Left: Called the Romex Antenna because it's often made from #12 solid copper wire harvested from Romex house wire soldered to it's center— a SO-239 coax connector.

Above: Tape Measure Yagi under test to determine that it has less 2 dB less gain than the dipole de facto antenna.

Are you interested in building your own Handy Talkie accessory antenna— like a Romex Ground Plane or a Slim Jim J-Pole or a Home Brew Vertical Dipole? The 4th Wednesday meeting committee is willing to entertain this- let me know **via email** or at The Clubhouse some Saturday. Regards, Rich kr7w



Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)
Western Washington Section
District 5, Pierce County ARES
www.PierceCountyARES.net



Greetings,

ARES articles provide information about amateur radio emergency communications, and Pierce County District 5 ARES activities and events. Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is an ARRL organization dedicated to Amateur Radio Emergency Communication through skill and preparedness

When You Need Amateur Radio, You Really Need It!

The Background...

Pierce County ARES manages local ARES activity, training, exercises, and skill development. Pierce County ARES supports and meets at the Pierce County Emergency Operations Center.

ARES activities:

Washington State and ARES District Quarterly Exercise:

ARES District 5 conducted its third quarterly emergency communications exercise Saturday September 29th. This exercise featured and promoted ARES team developed objectives and tasks to develop proficiency and skill levels. For example, The South Pierce ARES team *simulated* an earthquake with subsequent flooding, a train derailment with a hazardous plume which prevented team operators from using their primary emergency facility, and instead, deploy with mobile equipment to set up emergency communications

2018 ARRL Annual Simulated Exercise Test (SET)

ARES also participated in a back to back exercise, the Annual ARRL Simulated Exercise Test on 6 October from around 8 am till noon. This broader exercise was participated in by multiple agencies across Washington State as well as the Pierce County District 5 ARES teams and Pierce County Emergency Operations Center.

Hurricane Michael has reinforced once again, our vulnerabilities to serious disasters and emergencies, almost all of which cause communications failures and overloads. Amateur radio has a special place in the preparation and exercising to ensure that our we are trained and skilled at handling emergency communications, in particular, health and welfare traffic. In the case of Hurricane Michael, the worst hit areas were still without baseline cell service as late as 14 October...

Coming Events/Training:

(Unless otherwise indicated location is Pierce County Emergency Operations Center)

The **18 October** general membership meeting program will address **EmComm Power, Generators, Batteries and Solar; There will also be a FirstNet presentation** by the ATT Mobile Systems representative. Recommend a Google search for FirstNet which will provide a myriad of websites that have various content about FirstNet.

27 October, Saturday morning 9 to Noon presentation will be an ARES **New Member Orientation / Concept of Operations**. (You do not need to be a “new” member, or even a registered Member of ARES to attend these sessions). Join us at the Pierce County Department of Emergency Management at the Emergency Oper-

ations Center

ARES Meetings

Pierce County ARES Meets Monthly, at 7 pm on the Third Thursday at the Pierce County Emergency Operations Center. Meetings always have a program, normally an EmComm Training Focus.

Pierce County District 5 Website: <http://www.piercecountyares.net/web>

ARES Membership Application: <http://www.piercecountyares.net/web/application>

ARES Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PierceCountyARES/files/>

Washington State Emergency Management: <https://www.facebook.com/WashEMD/>

ARES Information and Communications Plan frequencies:

For ARES Team, EOC frequencies, and other ARES activities you may also use the following W7DK.org Website, using the following link:

http://www.w7dk.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=46&Itemid=111

Larry Watson, KD4VOM
Secretary, Pierce County ARES
Kd4vom@mailcan.com

Committed to our Community
When All Else Fails



The ARRL Contest Branch has announced that participants in the 2019 [ARRL RTTY Roundup](#) will be permitted to use the new FT8 protocol, which is part of the [WSJT-X](#) software suite. The RTTY Roundup takes place January 5 - 6, 2019.

"Even though digital modes other than RTTY have been permitted in the RTTY Roundup for 30 years, FT8 was excluded in 2018, because it could not manage the required exchanges," ARRL Contest Branch Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, said. "Through the work of the *WSJT-X* development team, the latest version of FT8 can handle the necessary exchanges that earlier versions were unable to do."



Some limitations will apply to FT8 entrants. Participants must use [WSJT-X version 2.0](#) or later to ensure they are able to transmit and receive the exchange messages the event requires. No unattended operation, including QSO/macro automations, will be allowed. Neither is FT8's Fox and Hounds mode; each contact must be carried out in a one-to-one mode, manually accepting/logging each contact.

Because ARRL contest rules regarding spotting assistance prohibit the use of "automated, multi-channel decoders" by Single-Operator entrants, stations using software that decodes *more than one* FT8 signal at a time will have to enter as Single-Operator Unlimited or as Multioperator, just as PSK participants have had to do in the past when using *fldigi* or *DigiPan* software.

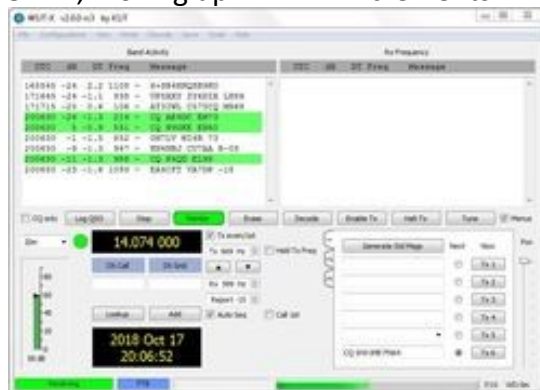
The Contest Branch is encouraging participants to spread out to help increase decoding and contact success.

"This is a great opportunity for beginners interested in digital mode contesting," Jahnke said. [Complete rules](#) are on the ARRL website. Read [more](#).

Short "Practice Contest" Set for ARRL RTTY Roundup Participants Planning to Use FT8

A 1-hour "practice contest" will be held next week on Wednesday, October 24, 0200 - 0300 UTC (Thursday, October 25, in North American time zones). Use dial frequency 7.078 kHz, moving up in 2 kHz increments if interference is too great.

To participate, you must use [WSJT-X version 2.0.0-rc3](#), a beta-test version. Installation packages for Windows, Linux, and macOS are near the bottom of the page. A full release of *WSJT-X* 2.0 is targeted for release on December 10. FT8 co-developer Joe Taylor, K1JT, advises reading the revised [Quick-Start Guide](#) before using *WSJT-X* 2.0.



Some important reminders:

1. On the "Settings/Advanced tab", check the boxes that say "Always generate 77-bit messages," "Decode only 77-bit messages," and "ARRL RTTY Roundup." In the field labeled "Exch," enter the 2- or 3-letter abbreviation for your state or province (US/Canadian stations), or enter DX if you are not in the US or Canada.

2. Be sure that 7.078 appears in your drop-down frequency list for FT8 mode. You might need to do a reset on the Settings/Frequencies tab. If the subband starting at 7.078 becomes overcrowded, move to a higher dial frequency in 2 kHz increments -- 7.080, 7.082, etc. Type Ctrl+Shift+F12 to move up by 2 kHz, or Ctrl+Shift+F11 to move down by 2 kHz.

3. Do not use a compound or nonstandard call sign in this event

Planning is under way for one or more dedicated FT8 contests to be held in the next few months. --

Thanks to Joe Taylor, K1JT

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On the Road Again - 2018 Salmon Run Expedition - La Segunda Parte

by Rich KR7W

Since the article in last month's Bark highlighting The Mt Rainier ARC's WW7LW Rover Station's effort in the 2018 Salmon Run— some RCT members have been asking questions about the **'Rover Station in the Wheat Field'**.

The two most asked about items are:

1. What Antenna did you use?
2. The Go Box— how do I get one?



This article intends to provide details of the **Antenna System**.

Left: shows the fan dipole antenna atop the two part 31 foot mast.

The foundation of the Mast System is the Drive Over Mast Support Pipe fabricated by Chuck AC7QN.



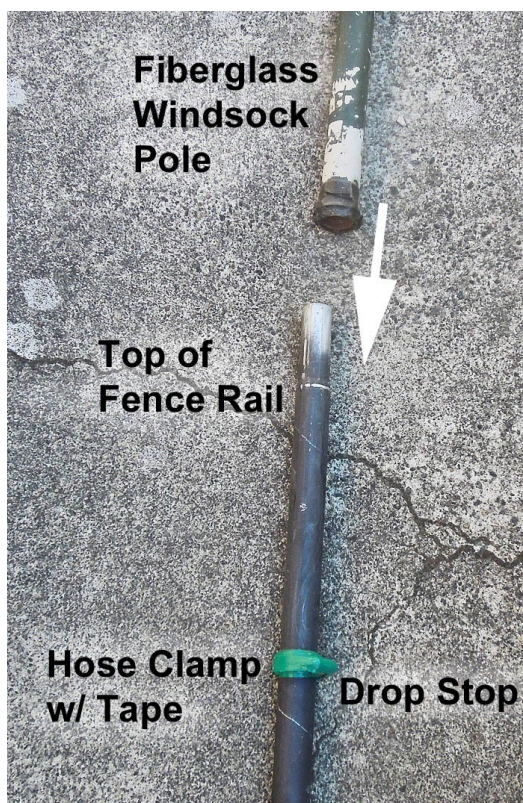
Bottom Left: Drive over Mast Support Pipe. **Bottom Right:** Bottom part of the 31 ft. mast is a Home Depot / Lowes sourced 11 ft. section of Chain Link Fence Rail. PVC/ABS pipe fittings were selected and taped to the bottom of the Fence Rail to act as spacers inside of the Drive Over Mast Supports pipe.



The Top part of the 31 ft. mast is a 23 ft. Fiberglass collapsible pole— similar to a **Jackite Windsock Pole**. Similar poles can be found on Amazon. Note: If you buy a pole— double check the dimensions to make sure all parts will nest together.



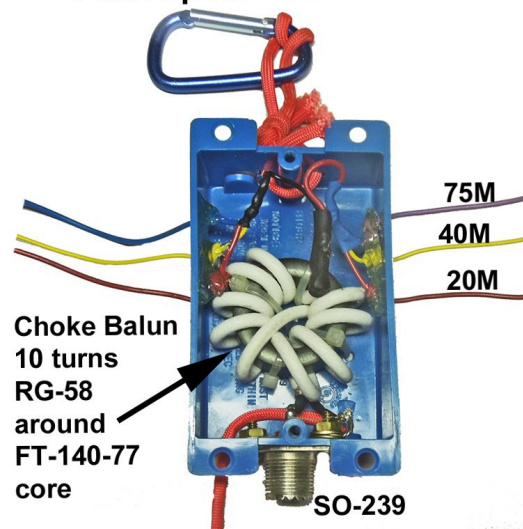
Bottom Left: shows Drop Stop made from Hose clamp covered with electrical tape.



The fiberglass pole simply slides onto the Fence Rail and gravity keeps it in place.

Top Right: shows components inside of 3 band Fan Di-pole Feed Point box. Hot melt glue used liberally. Antenna wires are #18 AWG for 75M leg and #22 AWG for 40M

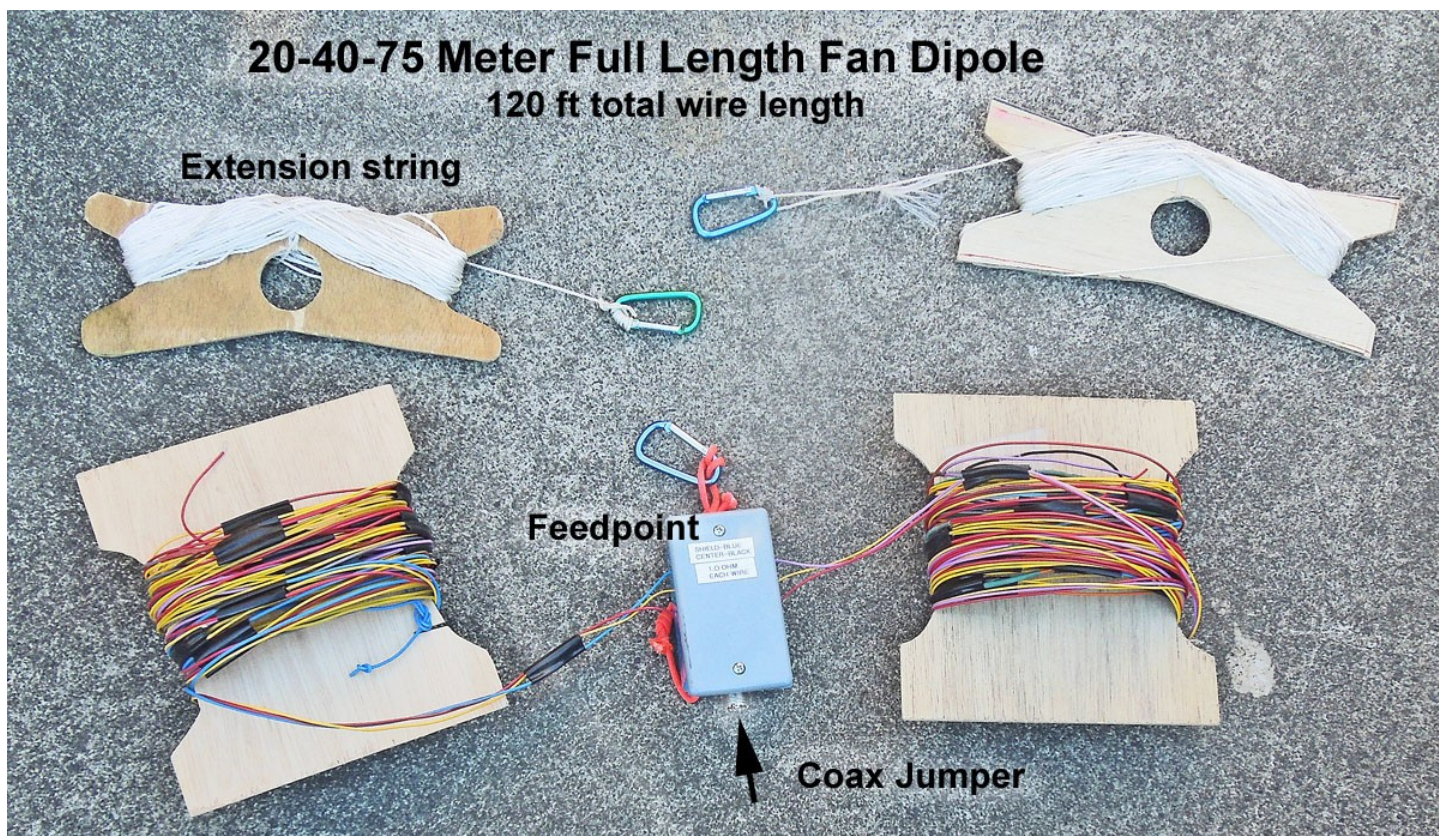
Fan Dipole Feed Point



and 20M legs. Wires are spaced using 1" wide electrical tape.

Bottom: shows the antenna minus the 50 ft. RG-58 coax jumper from feed-point to the radio box. Extension strings consists of Mason's Twine wound on homebrew plywood Kite String Winder form in a figure-8 fashion. Extension strings are pulled out a long ways to elevate the ends of the dipole as much as possible.

Thanks for checking in. 73 - Rich KR7W.



ARRL Northwest Division Elections

The ARRL Board of Directors' Ethics and Elections Committee has declared as eligible the candidates for the 2018 Board election cycle. Incumbent Directors in four ARRL Divisions face challengers, as does one Vice Director. Both chairs are open in the Northwestern Division.

- **In the Central Division**, Incumbent Director Kermit Carlson, W9XA, is being challenged for the seat by Valerie Hotzfeld, NV9L. Vice Director Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, is unopposed for re-election.
- **In the Hudson Division**, Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, faces a challenge from Ria Jairam, N2RJ. Vice Director Bill Hudzik, W2UDT, is unopposed for re-election.
- **In the New England Division**, Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI, is being challenged for re-election by Fred Hopengarten, K1VR. Vice Director Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF, has no opposition for re-election.
- **In the Roanoke Division**, the incumbent Director and Vice Director face challengers. Director James Boehner, N2ZZ, is being opposed for re-election by George Hippisley, W2RU, while incumbent Vice Director Bill Morine, N2COP, will be facing off against John Humphrey, W4IM, to retain his seat.

In the Northwestern Division, both the Director's and Vice Director's chairs are up for grabs, as incumbent Jim Pace, K7CEX, has opted not to seek a new term on the Board. Incumbent Vice Director Bonnie Altus, AB7ZQ, is in a three-way race for the Director's seat. The other two candidates are Horace Hamby, N7DRW, and Mike Ritz, W7VO. A three-way race also exists for the Vice Director's seat that Altus is vacating in order to run for Director. The candidates are Delvin Bunton, NS7U; Daniel Stevens, KL7WM, and Mark Tharp, KB7HDX.

This and That

Youth Ham Radio Learning

Radio Club of Tacoma will be supporting a BSA Scouting Camporee near Orting on October 19-21. About 120-150 scouts are expected. We expect to have a Jamboree On the Air (JOTA) HF station and (hopefully) additional youth hands-on-experience using radios. To make all this come to fruition, we will need a number of volunteer hams and the loan of 2M handhelds/portables, off-set attenuators, tape measure beams, pop-up tent(s)/portable shelters. So if you would be able to loan some equipment or like to help on Sat. Oct 20, or on Sunday morning, please contact Steve AF7YD, ASAP, so we can plan accordingly. stevedight-man@kendra.com, or 253 988-0878.

NOTE; You do not have to have scouting credentials to participate in this exercise.

This will be a great opportunity to introduce many young scouts to the lifetime fun Ham Radio offers. I look forward to hearing from you.

Learning or Refreshing Your CW?

This summer I started my journey to establish my CW competence. A long time ago I passed the code test at the FCC office for Amateur Advanced but didn't quite get to the 20WPM skill needed for Extra. Also, along the way in my career, I picked up an interest in the skills and application of directing one's own brain for increasing the likelihood for more effective outcomes*. So as I have been practicing CW, I have been paying particular attention as I try to establish new neuronal brain pathways in my own brain. I recognize copying CW involves a number separate skills, that in order to be effective, need to work together. For instance, when learning, copying to hand written paper is a different skill than copying by keyboard. To copy to one's own awareness/memory is yet another skill. Over time, one may want to develop all these skills.

For the past few months I've found a number other RCT members working on their CW skills, and chatting about their experience and resources they use. I would also like to learn from you, and your experience. I don't yet have any particular goal for all this attention into the brain training in learning CW, but perhaps something useful may fall out. So if you are developing your CW skills, I would like the opportunity to chat with you about what's working for you, and what struggles you may be having. One common theme I've picked up on so far, in spite of some of the CW learning challenges, we all seem to be having fun!

In future columns I hope to explore more details of my and your experience in our CW journey.

Access to Commercial Plumbing Supply House

For the RCT members who are DIYers, we now have access to Ferguson Plumbing-Waterworks-Industrial supplier, <https://www.ferguson.com> . Their primary Pierce County location is in Fife at 3517 Pacific Hwy E., Tacoma, WA 98424, (253) 922-9060. Their prices aren't necessarily lower, but I've found their plumbing depth of stock is hands down vastly superior to any of the big-box retail stores. And if they don't have the items needed in stock they have the ability to move items from their branches quickly.

You may pay by credit card or cash. The account is "RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA", and can be looked up using

RCT's phone, 253 759-2040. Always use a Purchase Order number of your FCC Call Sign.

Home Depot

RCT now has a PRO account at Home Depot. This account does not come with a discount unless you are: 1.) ordering over ~ \$1500 and asking the ProDesk for a bid, 2.) Buying paint, 20% off; 3.) buying bulk packs of parts. To use the account, look up the account by using the RCT phone to look up, 253 759-2040, Radio Club of Tacoma. Please tell the cashier your job number which is always your call sign. Cash and Credit card apply. Perhaps if we collectively buy enough, we can negotiate a better deal.

Upcoming MFJ bulk purchase

HEADS UP: Sometime this Fall--Winter 2018, Adam, W2NCC will be organizing another bulk buy from MFJ.

WARNING: If you are late and miss deadlines, don't ask to participate. It takes a lot of time to manage all the details that go along with bulk purchase and asking to manage extra details because you are late is not cool. You've been warned! So now is the time to plan you next MFJ order and communicate that to Adam.

Note: Randy, WB4SPB and I will be posting to the logged-in, member benefits page our web site all the commercial accounts, sometime soon

That's ***This and That*** for now.

Hope you found this helpful. Topic Suggestions & Feedback Welcome.

73's, Steve AF7YD

* A resource on this topic is: The User's Manual For The Brain, Volumes I and II. Bob G. Bodenhamer. L. Michael Hall

**Radio Club of Tacoma
General Meeting Agenda
September 1, 2018**

Meeting called to order at 1330 PDT by President Dave W7UUU at **the Eagles Aerie #3 Hall**

Officers and Directors Present

President Dave Ellison W7UUU
Vice President Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Secretary Mike Finnie W7MWF
Treasurer Steve Dightman AF7YD
Board Red Cranefield WB7EC
Board Phil Pia K7PIA
Board Paul Matney W7PFU

Pledge of Allegiance led by Dave W7UUU

Health and Welfare

Silent Keys and Illness - The club has been notified that 2 members have recently entered the ranks of Silent Keys

Mike Scott KB7MS RCT #602

Don Olsen W7DON RCT #1397

Casey Hicks WY7V memorial services will be held September 22, 2018 at 1:00 PM with social hour to follow. Location is Abundant Life Fellowship, 5917 So. Thompson Ave, Tacoma.

Welcome and Self-

Guests – present were Mike Ritz W7VO and new member Bob K7BD and his XYL

New Calls – none announced

Self-introductions were conducted. 34 individuals signed the attendance roster

Secretary's Report (W7MWF)
Salmon Run Pledges

Usual correspondence received. QSL Cards, Utility bills, periodicals,

Treasurer's Report (AF7YD) Steve reported all current bills have been paid and deposits made.

President's Report (W7UUU) Dave gave a report of the success of the Picnic and also demonstrated his newly acquired ground rod driver which he will make available to members.

Committee / Activity Reports

Membership (K7GRS/W7MKE)
270

Membership team reported that current member count is about

Training

Tech License Training October 7/8

Extra-class license training by Dave N7HT Sept thru December

VE Report (AC7WW) There was no report since the next VE Session will be held September 11

HF Operations (K7PIA) HF Station Ops report – Phil advised that we have 2 operable amps in the HF room and that there is now a boom microphone installed with the Flex. Al N7OMS gave an up date on contests and encouraged folks to come operate on Salmon Run on the weekend of September 15th.

Repeater Ops There are still problems with the Bates repeater. Randy WB4STB explained why IRLP Reflector restrictions are in effect.

IT Report (WB4SPB) Randy advised that all systems are functioning as expected and within normal operating parameters.

Museum Randy reported that the W7OS museum will be on the air for the Classic Exchange at the end of the month.

Nominating Committee Randy WB4SPB provided an overview of the election process and announced that incumbent Officers and Directors whose terms expire are willing to stand for election to another term. He then solicited nominations from the floor and none were forthcoming. Nominations from the floor will again be solicited at the October general meeting, after which ballots will be mailed by October 30th and due by the November 6 General Meeting.

Facilities Mgmt (WE7P or Al N7OMS) No report

Prop Mgmt (WB7EC) Red reported August Sales were \$309 and August Raffle proceeds were \$22. New items are being added to the sale list on an ongoing basis and lists of items available will be posted in the clubhouse.

4th Weds Activity Night - The topic will be “Welcome to Amateur Radio” with focus on 2-meter operations and equipment. Jim K7SSS will explain and demonstrate the procedures for programming handi-talkies.

New Business

Unfinished Business and Announcements

- **September 30** – Happy Birthday Party to celebrate 100th birthday for Worth W7WG
- **August 31 thru September 23** - RCT booth at the Washington State Fair.
- **September 15 and 16** - Salmon Run (WA state QSO Party) and annual W7DK Fund Raising Pledge Drive.

Program Presentation Topic for September meeting was a visit from Mike Ritz W7VO from Oregon. Mike is a candidate for NW Division Director. The presentation for the October meeting will be by Bonnie Altus AB7ZQ who is also a candidate for NW Division Director.

Tuning and Traffic Bob Decker K7BD requested assistance and advice for the implementation of radio equipment at the Lutheran Retirement Center. Warren NG7G will consult with him to determine extent of requirements.

Dave W7UUU showed an original magazine that had belonged to Howard Anthony and explained that the margin notes in Mr. Anthony's writing were evidence of the early development of the Heathkit Oscilloscope.

Door Prize A tool kit was won by Warren NG7G

Raffle Prize A 6 meter transceiver was won by Ron K6HSB

Other miscellany We were reminded that the Holiday Party will be held on December 2 at the Eagles Club facility at 70th and Pine. Also PJ solicited members to submit photos and article ideas for publication in the Bark.

Adjournment was at 1502 PDT

Respectfully submitted;
Mike Finney W7MWF

Radio Club of Tacoma
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
September 5, 2018

Meeting called to order at 1853 PDT by President Dave W7UUU.

Officers and Directors Present

President	Dave Ellison W7UUU
Vice President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Secretary	Mike Finnie W7MWF
Treasurer	Steve Dightman AF7YD
Board	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board	Paul Matney W7PFU
Board	Adam Barbera W2NCC
Board	Red Cranefield WB7EC
Board	Phil Pia K7PIA

Quorum? A quorum was seated. There were 14 club members in attendance.

Silent Key or Illness? The club has been notified that 2 members have recently entered the ranks of Silent Keys

Mike Scott KB7MS RCT #602

Don Olsen W7DON RCT #1397

Casey Hicks WY7V memorial service will be held September 22, 2018 at 1:00 PM with social hour to follow. Location is Abundant Life Fellowship, 5917 So. Thompson Ave, Tacoma.

Approval of Minutes of August 1, 2018 Board Meeting. The minutes were approved as circulated

Secretary's Report (W7MWF) Mike reported Usual Correspondence received: Subscriptions, utility bills, bank statements, dues renewals and new members. Salmon run pledges and donations rolling in.

Treasurer's Report (AF7YD) Steve reported that all current bills are paid and deposits are current except very recent Salmon Run donations

Committee / Reports

Membership (K7GRS/W7MKE) Mike W7MKE reported current membership stands at 274. He is going to compile a report tabulating the different types of memberships (e.g. regular, senior, life, honorary, promotional) that makeup the population of the club.

Training

- Tech License Training suspended until October
- VE Testing next session September 11
- License upgrade class planned to begin in September and run to December

Info Tech (WB4SPB) Randy reports that the research computer has been repaired. Configuration of computers for Salmon Run and Rig Interfaces is nearly complete. All other IT systems are functioning as expected.

Nominating Committee (WB4SPB) Randy reports that the incumbent officers and directors whose terms expire this year are all willing to run again. At the General Meeting held on September 1, Randy reviewed the election process, advised members of the slate of incumbents, and solicited nominations from the floor. No nominations were forthcoming. Floor nominations will again be solicited at the October General Meeting, and the ballots will be mailed later in October.

HF Operations (K7PIA) Phil reported that the Heil boom microphone on the Flex is working great. There are now two operable amps in the HF room.

Repeater Ops (K7TMW) The 21 repeater is still exhibiting problems. Dave W7UUU will visit with Tim about possible solutions

Facilities Mgmt

- Garage bay door Adam W2NCC is still soliciting bids
- Garage man-door status Purchased and awaiting installation
- Alarm status and battery checks have not been fully completed pending door installations. Steve AF7YD advised that there have been reports of hobos camping out in the parking lot. No viable solution was immediately obvious. However, the alarm system will be re-enabled with some modification to provide clubhouse security.

Property Mgmt (WB7EC) Red reported that August property sales netted \$309 and the August raffle generated \$22. The Sept raffled brought in \$63. More property upcoming for sale soon.

Museum (KR7W) Randy reported that the W7OS station plans to be on the air for the Classic Exchange event near the end of September.

Weds Workshop Intro to Ham Radio with emphasis on 2m operations and gear. Programming HTs will be demonstrated by Jimmy K7SSS.

General Meeting Presentation Topic for September meeting was a visit from Mike Ritz W7VO from Oregon. Mike is a candidate for NW Division Director. The presentation for the October meeting will be by Bonnie Altuz AB7ZQ who is also a candidate for NW Division Director

Unfinished Business

- Recovery and disposition of 70 feet Rohn 25 tower stored at Larry KD4VOM QTH (Still coordinating with Larry)

- Appoint additional member (s) to serve on committees in instances where a committee has only 1 participant. Tabled until after elections so that the incoming President can address the issue when making annual appointments

- Tower maintenance. Dave will touch base with Nick K7MO regarding progress on maintenance issues.

- Planning for W7WG 100th birthday celebration – Will be held at the clubhouse on September 30 from 1 til 3 p.m. A special award is being presented on behalf of the Quarter Century Wireless Association.

New Business

Member concerns about unsupervised children in the clubhouse – complaint noted and recommendation to report behavior to parent, or to report behavior to Saturday host/hostess to intervene with the parent.

Opportunity to assist Boy Scouts camporee at Ski Lake Park ... a private gated acreage with a man-made lake just east of Orting. The event is to be held on Oct. 19 - 21. The theme is Signs / Signals and Codes. We expect 100 - 200 Scouts ... plus a military communications unit, plus a dutch oven cooking club, plus some shooting sports (archery ... perhaps .22) and more. Steve AF7YD and Mike W7MKE are looking into how the club might be able to support this event, what type of station and operation would be appropriate, and registering with the BSA to comply with their mentor qualification requirements.

Letter from Mark Tharp KB7HDX candidate for Vice Director, ARRL NW Division

Activity Reports and Discussion Topics

- Report on the Summer Picnic held August 26 Big success.
- State Fair ongoing. Stephan AD7AB soliciting and booth hosts/hostesses – ongoing need for hosts
- Salmon Run upcoming on September 15/16
- Any other reports and discussion topics:

Adam W2NCC is launching a new discussion forum soon and requests officers and directors post to the forum. Details will be forthcoming.

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 2010.

THE CLUB LINEUP

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Dave Ellison, W7UUU - w7uuu@w7dk.org

Vice Pres: Mike Mikuchonis, W7XTZ - w7xtz@w7dk.org

Secretary: Mike Finnie, W7MWF - w7mwf@w7dk.org

Treasurer: Steve Dightman, AF7YD - af7yd@w7dk.org

5 BOARD MEMBERS

Bruce Hanson, WE7P - we7p@w7dk.org

Paul Matney, W7PFU - w7pfu@w7dk.org

Adam Barbera, W2NCC - w2ncc@w7dk.org

Red Cranefield, WB7EC - wb7ec@w7dk.org

Phil Pia, K7PIA - k7pia@w7dk.org

THE **LOGGER'S BARK** is the *OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA...* and is published by RCT, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law, and all proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98405, phone: 253-759-2040.

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The Fine Print: The Logger's Bark is published once a month for the membership of The Radio Club of Tacoma or interested ham radio enthusiasts. The Bark is delivered by PDF file on the club's website:

www.w7dk.org.

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MEMBERSHIP INFO: FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is \$35 per calendar year. \$30 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay \$20 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Full-time students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are \$20 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

www.w7dk.org - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website.

RADIO CLUB REPEATERS

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5

Crawford Mountain 147.380 + PL=103.5 (E of Olympia @ 1500 ft. ASL)

Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

North Tacoma: 145.21 – PL=141.3